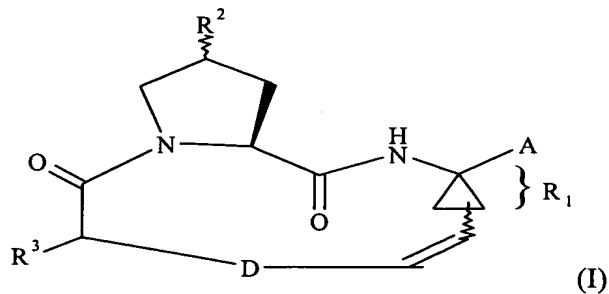
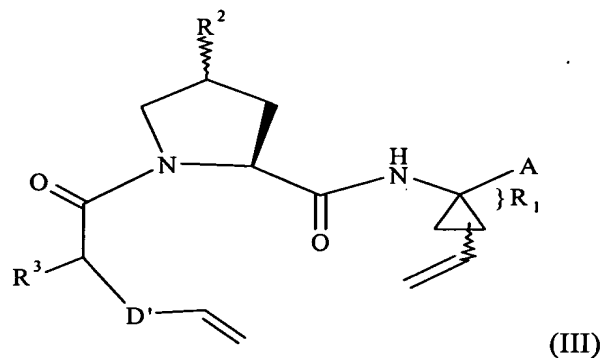


ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an improved process for the preparation of a macrocyclic compound of formula I



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , A and D have the meaning given in the claims; by a ring closure metathesis of the corresponding diene of formula III



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , A and D' have the meaning given in the claims; in the presence of a benzylidene ruthenium catalyst, wherein the phenyl group is substituted by a nitro group.

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